

Message Text

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ACTION PC-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 USIA-15 L-03 /046 W

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R 281619Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1265

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

REF: BANJUL 554

1. WELCOME STEVERSON/MCKINNEY VISIT OCTOBER 3 AND HAVE SCHEDULED MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR 1430 THAT AFTERNOON.

2. WITH REGARD POINTS RAISED REFTEL, ASIC CONSIDERATIONS DISCUSSED WITH STEVERSON AND MCKINNEY ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS STILL OBTAIN. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEMS AND FRUSTRATIONS INHERENT IN PURSUIT OF PC PROGRAM IN NIGERIA, WE CONSIDER PROGRAM EMINENTLY WORTH WHILE CONTINUING, AS INDICATED LAGOS 2422, AND WE HOPE THAT EIGHT PC COACHES REQUESTED BY NIGERIAN SPORTS COUNCIL (NSC) CAN BE RECRUITED SOONEST.

A. IDENTITY OF COACHES AS PCVS IS ALREADY CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY ADEFOPE, ORDIA AND EVERYONE AT NSC. ACTION HAS FULL CREDIT WITH THEM, AND THEY WILL HAVE THIS IN MIND IN ANY FURTHER DEALINGS RE PCVS IN NIGERIA. AT SAME TIME, WHILE PCVS ARE WANTED AND WELCOMED BY NSC, THE NAME /PEACE CORPS/ STILL EVOKES IN MANY CIRCLES, INCLUDING MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, NEGATIVE ASSOCIATIONS WITH BIAFRA AND CIVIL WAR. IN INTEREST OF POSITIVE IMAGE OF ACTION EFFORTS IN NIGERIA, WE BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE AVOID INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO PC IDENTITY. THERE WILL BE NO QUESTION IN NSC AS TO THE COACHES' IDENTITY AS PCVS AS THEY ENTER NIGERIA, BUT IN KEEPING WITH LOW PROFILE APPROACH SUGGESTED REFTEL, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE LEFT AT THAT FOR TIME BEING.

B. RE REFTEL PROPOSAL ASSIGN ONE PC STAFF PERSON NIGERIA,
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PRESENT PLAN, DISCUSSED WITH AND APPROVED BY NSC DURING LAST PCD

VISIT, IS THAT TWO OF TEN COACHES WOULD BE ASSIGNED LAGOS TO COORDINATE AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE THIS, TOGETHER WITH ASSISTANCE AS NECESSARY FROM EMBASSY/USIS, SHOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR CONTINGENT OF TEN PCVS AND SHOULD HELP ASSURE THEIR SATISFACTORY PROGRAMMING AND UTILIZATION, LACK OF WHICH WAS PRINCIPAL BASIS FOR ATTRITION DURING PAST YEAR. MORE-OVER, SEPTEMBER 7 NSC STATEMENT THAT ENYEAZU WILL HENCE FORTH BE IN CHARGE OF COACHES PROVIDES FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT RE THEIR PROPER UTILIZATION. CURRENT AGREEMENT WITH NSC COVERS TEN PCVS BUT NO STAFF PERSONNEL, AND AS INDICATED LAGOS 2421 WE BELIEVE NO NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SOUGHT AT THIS TIM. FOR ABOVE REASONS, WE CONTINUE TO HOLD CONVICTION THAT PC STAFF PERSON SHOULD NOT BE ASSIGNED NIGERIA UNLESS AND UNTIL THE NUMBER OF PCV'S IS INCREASED BEYONT TEN. AS INDICATED LAGOS 1960, NSC REALIZES AGREEMENT WITH ACTION WOULD BE NECESSARY IN SUCH CASE.

2. WE HAVE TREATED THESE POINTS IN SOME DETAIL AS WE BELIEVE THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IS DEINITELY WORTH PURSUING IN NIGERIA. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ALSO BELIEVE THE TERMINOLOGY AND ADMINI-STRATIVE FRAMEWORK SHOULD BE HELD SUBSTANTIALY AS AT PRESENT. IT WOULD BE MOST REGRETTABLE IF PROGRAM COULD NOT BE SO CONTINUED, BUT IF ACTION DETERMINES THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, WE SUGGEST EXPLANATION BE GIVEN NSC IN PERSON BY PCD GHANA AND CANCELLATION BE SENT IN WRITING SOONEST, WITH COPY TO EMBASSY. REINHARDT

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